

Learning Module 7

Medical reference sources

- Consumer Health Information (CHI)
 - "information on health and medical topics provided in response to requests from the general public, including patients and their families. In addition to information on the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of disease, CHI encompasses information on health promotion, preventive medicine, the determinants of health and accessing the health care system."
(http://caphis.mlanet.org/resources/caphis_statement.html)
- Consumer Health Information and Public Libraries
 - Health information located through libraries plays an important role in health care decisions.
 - Much of the health information available is written at above a grade 8 reading level.
 - Consumer Health Information services and partnerships with regional or government health services play an important role.
 - Hospital libraries and medical libraries are increasingly providing health information to the public. (see <http://ehrweb.aaas.org/PDF/ChallengePubLibraries.pdf>)
- Roles for the Librarian in the Provision of Consumer Health Information
 - Collection Management
 - Identify and select authoritative consumer health information which matches the needs of their community
 - Routinely examine material for currency and accuracy and weed obsolete or outdated material
 - Knowledge and Resource Sharing
 - Build links with community and government organisations which disseminate health care information
 - Providing programmes for the general public on the location and evaluation of health information
 - Access and Dissemination
 - Creating collections of consumer health information for patron access
 - Advocating the right of consumers to have access to health care information (see http://caphis.mlanet.org/resources/caphis_statement.html)
- Issues in medical reference and the dissemination of health information
 - Ethical Issues in Medical Reference

- Librarians can help users locate authoritative health information but cannot suggest treatments or diagnoses
- Domain Knowledge
 - Knowledge of health care terminology or jargon is extremely important in the provision of health care information, utilities such as the [MeSH thesaurus in Pubmed](#) or the [MEDLINE Dictionary](#) can help librarians and users to translate from popular terminology to medical terminology

Health Resources for Librarians

- Overviews and General Resources
 - American Association for the Advancement of Science: The Challenge of Providing Consumer Health Information Services in Public Libraries
<http://ehrweb.aaas.org/PDF/ChallengePubLibraries.pdf>
 - Healthy People 2010 <http://www.healthypeople.gov/>
- Library Specific Guidelines
 - The Librarian's Role in the Provision of Consumer Health and Patient Information
http://caphis.mlanet.org/resources/caphis_statement.htm
 - Reference and User Services Association, American Library Association: Guidelines for Medical, Legal and Business Responses
 - <http://www.librarycareers.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/archive/protools/referenceguide/guidelinesmedical.cfm>
- Evaluating Health Information Web Sites
 - MEDLINE Plus Guide to Health Web Surfing
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthywebsurfing.html>
 - MEDLINE Plus Page on Evaluating Health Information
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/evaluatinghealthinformation.html>
 - HON Code of Conduct (HONcode) for medical and health Web sites <http://www.hon.ch/HONcode/Conduct.html>
- Core Medical Reference Print Lists
 - Medical Library Association: Consumer and Health Information Section
<http://caphis.mlanet.org/resources/index.html>
 - Professional Level List of Print Books and Journals for a Small Medical Library
http://www.mssm.edu/library/brandon-hill/small_medical/index.shtml
- Other Sources for Librarians
 - Medical Reference Services Quarterly
<http://uu2mk8se5u.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=UU2MK8SE5U&S=JCs&C=MEDIREFSEQ&T=marc> (also in print C.W. Post Library Science Periodical)

- National Library of Medicine: Network of Medical Libraries <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/network.html>
 - Health Information for the Public Projects Funded by the National Library of Medicine, 2000 <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nno/hipprojects.html>
 - A Directory of medical libraries in New York State (C.W. Post Library Science Reference Z675.M4 D58)
- Training
 - Medical Library Association, Consumer Health Information Specialization Program <http://www.mlanet.org/education/chc/index.html>

Consumer Health Resources

- Health Information Websites
 - MEDLINE Plus <http://medlineplus.gov> (articles on health topics, medical encyclopedia, dictionary, directories, drugs & supplements, etc.)
 - National Cancer Institute <http://cancer.gov> (dictionary and articles)
 - Centers for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov> (articles on health and safety topics)
 - Centers for Disease Control Traveler's Health <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>
 - National Center for Health Statistics <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>
 - National Center for Health Statistics: FastStats A-Z <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/Default.htm>
 - National Institutes of Health: Health Information <http://health.nih.gov/>
 - Food and Drug Administration <http://www.fda.gov> (regulatory agency covering drugs, food and other consumer items)
 - Household Products Database (National Library of Medicine) <http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/index.htm> (information about household products)
 - Medical Library Association. Consumer and Health Information Section. The CAPHIS Top 100 List: Websites You Can Trust <http://caphis.mlanet.org/consumer/index.html>
 - Alternative Medicine Foundation <http://www.amfoundation.org/>
- New York Online Virtual Electronic Library: Health Section <http://novelnewyork.org/>
- Non US Health Information Websites
 - Health Canada http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index_e.html

- Healthy Canadians
http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/index_e.html
 - UK Department of Health
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm>
 - Health Insite – Quality Health Information for Australians
<http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/>
- Health and Medical Databases (Pubmed and MEDLINE)
 - MEDLINE via PubMed
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez>
 - PubMed contains MEDLINE as well as references to articles and journals that are out-of-scope for MEDLINE
 - PubMed Tutorials
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmed.html>
 - National Library of Medicine Fact Sheet. What's the difference between MEDLINE and PubMed?
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/dif_med_pub.html
 - National Library of Medicine MEDLINE Fact Sheet
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/medline.html>
 - Proquest Health Management Database
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://proquest.umi.com/login?COPT=REJTPTNjNGYmSU5UPTAmVkVSPTI=&clientId=18091>
- Medical Directories
 - Medical Directory of New York State (C.W. Post Main Reference R712.A1 M52)
 - AMA (American Medical Association) Doctor Finder
<http://webapps.ama-assn.org/doctorfinder/home.html>
 - Best Doctors in America 2006
<http://www.wuphysicians.wustl.edu/page.asp?pageID=136&NavID=4>
 - The Official ABMS Directory of Board Certified Medical Specialist
http://www.abms.org/Who_We_Help/Consumers/verifying.aspx (also in print C.W. Post Main Reference R712.A1 O335 OVSZ)
 - National directory of organizations serving parents of seriously emotionally handicapped children and youth (Sudoc# ED 1.310/2:288327 – Government Documents)
 - HMO Specific Websites and Directories
- First Aid and Safety
 - The American Medical Association Handbook of First Aid and Emergency Care
 - Mayo Clinic Guide to Self Care
 - The New York Times Book of Health
 - The Doctors book of home remedies II : over 1,200 new doctor-tested tips and techniques anyone can use
 - Mrs. Cookwell's Guide to Food Safety
<http://www.canfightbac.org/cpcfse/en/cookwell/>
- Guides and Almanacs

- American Medical Association Health Care Almanac: Every person's guide to the thoughtful and practical sides of medicine
 - AHA (American Hospital Association) Guide to the Health Care Field (C.W. Post Main Reference RA977 .A44)
 - American Hospital Association Resource Center Links
http://www.aha.org/aha_app/resource-center/links/resource-links.jsp
- Dictionaries and Handbooks
 - The American Heritage Medical Dictionary
<http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://www.xreferplus.com/entry.jsp?volid=463&source=marc>
 - MEDLINE Plus Medical Dictionary
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html>
 - Stedman's Medical Dictionary (C.W. Post Main Reference R121 .S8 2005)
 - DSM-IV Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
 - The Patient's Desk Reference (C.W. Post Main Reference RC81 .F865 1994)
 - The Merck Manual of Medical Information
 - The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy (C.W. Post Main Reference RC55 .M4)
 - Cecil - Textbook of Medicine (C.W. Post Main Reference RC46 .C423 1996 OVSZ)
 - The guide to complementary and alternative medicine on the Internet (C.W. Post Main Reference R733 .B795 2004)
 - Complementary and alternative medicine for older adults : a guide to holistic approaches to healthy aging (C.W. Post Main Circulation R733 .C65284 2006)
- Pharmacology (Drugs)
 - The Merck Index: an encyclopedia of chemicals, drugs, and biologicals (C.W. Post Main Reference RS51 .M4 2006)
 - The Physician's Desk Reference (C.W. Post Main Reference Annex Level B RS75 .P5)
 - American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
SafeMedication.com <http://www.safemedication.com/>
- Anatomy - The Human Body
 - General guides
 - Anatomy and physiology the easy way / I. Edward Alcamo
 - Major Systems of the Body (World Almanac Library)
 - Human body / Linda Calabresi (Children - multidimensional views of the human body)
 - The human body explained : a guide to understanding the incredible living machine / Philip Whitfield, general editor
 - Specific guides
 - The Immune System (21st Century library series, including The Circulatory System, The Digestive System, etc.)

- Your Immune System / Alan Edward Nourse (A venture book, including Epilepsy, The human mind)
- Specific Conditions
 - General Introductions
 - Cerebral Palsy (YA - series of books on specific medical conditions, including Autism, Diabetes, Epilepsy, etc.)
 - Cerebral palsy: a complete guide for caregiving / Freeman Miller, Steven J. Bachrach ; with Marilyn L. Boos ... [et al.]
 - various guides to medical conditions
 - Self Help Guides
 - Cookbooks for various conditions (e.g. diabetic cookbook)
 - etc.
- Serials (Journals and Magazines)
 - JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) <http://jama.ama-assn.org/>
 - The Lancet <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet>
 - BMJ (British Medical Journal) <http://www.bmj.com/>
 - Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine <http://uu2mk8se5u.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=UU2MK8SE5U&S=JCs&C=ALTETHEINHE&T=marc>
 - Alternative medicine review <http://UU2MK8SE5U.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=UU2MK8SE5U&S=JCs&C=ALTEMEDREV&T=marc>
 - Rodale's Health and Wellness Magazines <http://www.rodale.com/>